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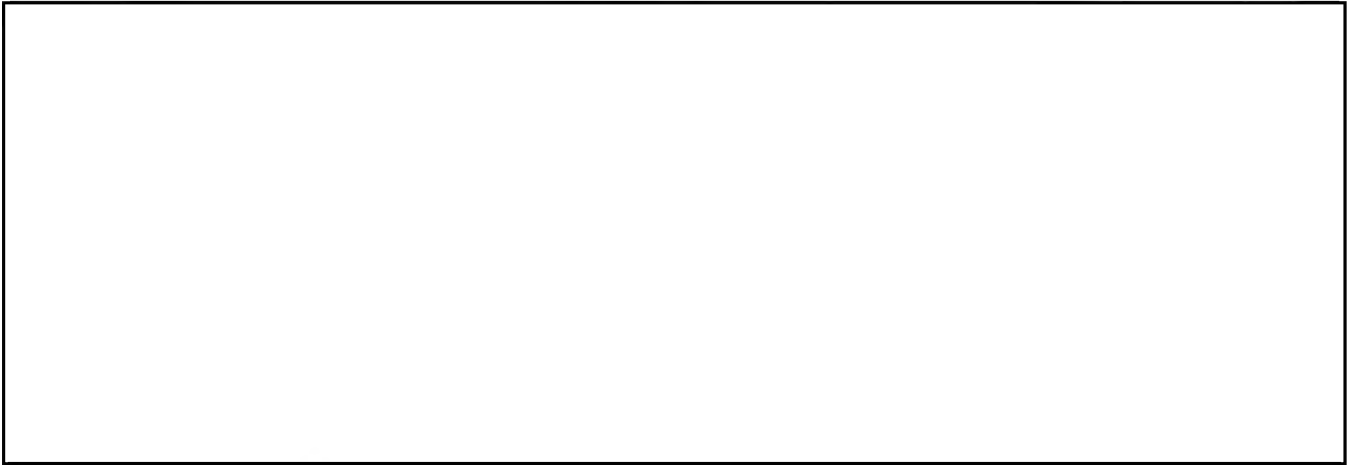
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State Department review completed

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SUMMARY

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WESTERN EUROPE

3. Italian Communists may change Party line (page 4).

- 2 -

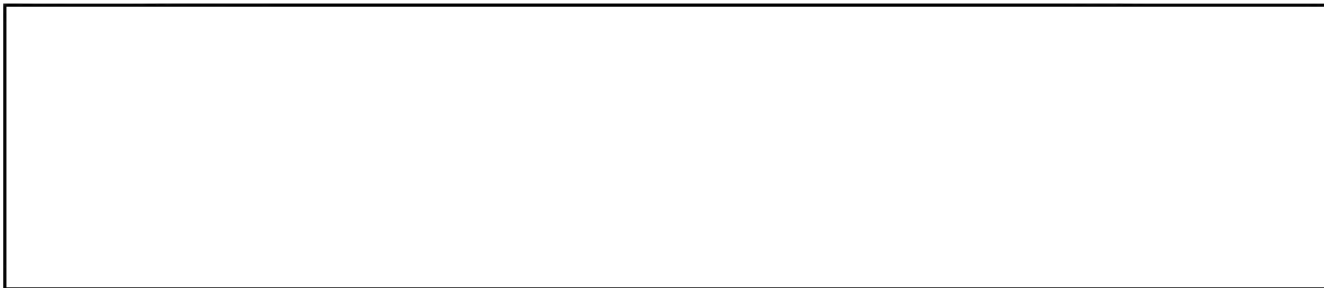
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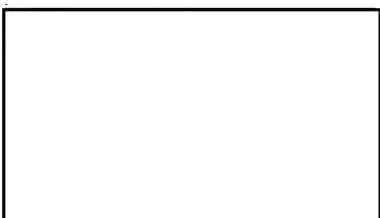
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WESTERN EUROPE

3. Italian Communists may change Party line:

US Embassy Rome points to a recent speech by Secchia, one of the leaders of the Italian Communist Party, as an indication that the Party may be about to change from the nationalist line advocated by Togliatti to a line emphasizing the role of Communist parties as forgers of international proletarian

solidarity. Secchia condemned "bourgeois nationalism and chauvinism" and stressed the need of "proletarian internationalism" and attachment to the Soviet Union.

Comment: In view of the already increasing discontent of nationalist elements within the Italian Communist Party, emphasis on an international line is not likely to strengthen its showing in the local elections projected for spring. It may be, however, that Soviet international policy requires reduction of the Italian Party to a hard core of reliable elements. Communist leader Togliatti will presumably clarify the Party's future policy at the February Party congress, which he is expected to attend on his return from Moscow.

- 4 -

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